REMARKS

Claims 17-52 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-16 were previously canceled and claims 17-21, 24, 30-36, 39, 45-47, and 50 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the claims in view of the following remarks.

Claims 17, 18, 20, 26, 27, 32, 33, 35, 41, 42, 46, and 50 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Russell, *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,526,407, hereinafter "Russell"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 17, as amended, currently recites "storing the audio information data as information data blocks and the signal pause duration data as signal pause data blocks having different time durations in a memory, and generating a plurality of audio information data sequences by sequentially reading the information data blocks and the signal pause data blocks, the audio information data sequences being separated by the signal pause data blocks if an assigned time duration of the signal pause data block is higher than a predetermined time duration." Russell does not disclose or suggest such a method for digitally recording an analog audio signal. Particularly, Russell does not process and store the analog audio signal into information data blocks, signal pause data blocks or a plurality of information data sequences. In contrast, Russell rather generally states that it is an important object of the present invention to construct a method and apparatus for recording, categorizing, organizing, managing, and retrieving speech information in a way which avoids problems presented by the prior art (column 5, 46-49). Further, Russell only generally discloses that portions of the speech stream are categorized by user command and/or automatic recognition of speech qualities, that structures which represent categorized portions of the speech stream are stored, in at least a temporary

storage (column, 6 50-53), and that speech processing capabilities detect pauses demarking speech phrases (column 7, 5-6). Russell, however, does not disclose or suggest to organize and store audio signal into information data blocks and signal pause data blocks, or how the speech stream is processed (plurality of information data sequences). Hence, claim 17 is allowable.

Claims 18-31 depend from claim 17 and add further limitations. It is respectfully submitted that these dependent claims are allowable by reason of depending from an allowable claim as well as adding new limitations.

Claim 32, as currently amended, specifically recites "storing the audio information data as information data blocks and the signal pause duration data as signal pause data blocks in a memory, and reading the stored data blocks sequentially in order to produce a data structure for managing the indexing, wherein a succession of information data blocks which is not interrupted by a signal pause with a pre-determined duration being detected as an audio information data sequence whose start and end are stored in the data structure for managing the indexing." Russell does not disclose or suggest such a method for digitally recording an analog audio signal. Particularly, Russell does not process and store the analog audio signal into information data blocks, signal pause data blocks, audio information data sequences or an automatic indexing. Rather, Russell only generally states that it is an important object of the present invention to construct a method and apparatus for recording, categorizing, organizing, managing, and retrieving speech information in a way which avoids problems presented by the prior art (column 5, 46-49). Further, Russell only generally discloses that portions of the speech stream are categorized by user command and/or automatic recognition of speech qualities, that structures which represent categorized portions of the speech stream are stored, in at least a temporary storage (column, 6 50-53), and that speech processing capabilities detect pauses demarking

speech phrases (column 7, 5-6). Russell, however, does not disclose or suggest to organize and store an audio signal into information data blocks and signal pause data blocks, or how the speech stream is processed (audio information data sequences). Hence, claim 32 is allowable.

Claims 33-46 depend from claim 32 and add further limitations. It is respectfully submitted that these dependent claims are allowable by reason of depending from an allowable claim as well as adding new limitations.

Claim 47 specifically recites "storing the audio information data as information data blocks in a memory, storing the signal pause duration data as signal pause data blocks in the memory, sequentially reading the stored data blocks from the memory, and storing the start address and end address of a succession of information data blocks which is not interrupted by a signal pause with a pre-determined duration in an index table." Russell does not disclose or suggest such a method for digitally recording an analog audio signal. Particularly, Russell does not store the analog audio signal into information data blocks, signal pause data blocks or process start and end addresses of a succession of information data block which is not interrupted by a signal pause with a pre-determined duration in an index table. Rather, Russell only generally states that it is an important object of the present invention to construct a method and apparatus for recording, categorizing, organizing, managing, and retrieving speech information in a way which avoids problems presented by the prior art (column 5, 46-49). Further, Russell only generally discloses that portions of the speech stream are categorized by user command and/or automatic recognition of speech qualities, that structures which represent categorized portions of the speech stream are stored, in at least a temporary storage (column, 6 50-53), and that speech processing capabilities detect pauses demarking speech phrases (column 7, 5-6). Russell, however, does not disclose or suggest to organize and store audio signal into information data

blocks and signal pause data blocks, or how the speech stream is processed. Hence, claim 47 is allowable.

Claims 48 and 49 depend from claim 47 and add further limitations. It is respectfully submitted that these dependent claims are allowable by reason of depending from an allowable claim as well as adding new limitations.

Claim 50 specifically recites "a memory configured to store audio information in information data blocks and to store signal pause duration data in signal pause data blocks, a data processor configured to read sequentially the stored data blocks and storing the start address and end address of a succession of information data blocks which is not interrupted by a signal pause with a first predetermined duration in an index table in the memory." Russell does not disclose or suggest such an apparatus. Particularly, Russell does not store the analog audio signal into information data blocks, signal pause data blocks or process start and end addresses of a succession of information data block which is not interrupted by a signal pause with a first pre-determined duration in an index table in the memory. Rather, Russell only generally states that it is an important object of the present invention to construct a method and apparatus for recording, categorizing, organizing, managing, and retrieving speech information in a way which avoids problems presented by the prior art (column 5, 46-49). Further, Russell only generally discloses that portions of the speech stream are categorized by user command and/or automatic recognition of speech qualities, that structures which represent categorized portions of the speech stream are stored, in at least a temporary storage (column, 6 50-53), and that speech processing capabilities detect pauses demarking speech phrases (column 7, 5-6). Russell, however, does not disclose or suggest to organize and store audio signal into information data blocks and signal pause data blocks, or how the speech stream is processed. Hence, claim 50 is allowable.

Claims 51 and 52 depend from claim 50 and add further limitations. It is respectfully submitted that these dependent claims are allowable by reason of depending from an allowable claim as well as adding new limitations.

Applicant has made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Ira S. Matsil, Applicant's attorney, at 972-732-1001 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees that are due, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-1065.

Respectfully submitted,

___11/26/08___
Date

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